GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1545
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF TUTICORIN PORT AS INTERNATIONAL HUB
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a long pending demand to develop the Tuticorin Port as an international hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the present status thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (d) Keeping in view the cargo mix, traffic potential of the port and other relevant factors, a project for Outer Harbour Development − Phase I at an estimated cost of Rs. 1200 crores at Tuticorin port has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). The project, for which a token outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs has been provided in Annual Plan 2005-06, is in preliminary stages.

A hub port, to be viable, needs to fulfill certain basic requirements such as aggregation of traffic, proximity to international routes and markets, availability of deep draft capable of receiving and berthing mother ships, longer water front, high level of road/rail connectivity, large back-up area and supporting hinter-land. An international Consultancy firm engaged by the Tuticorin Hub Port Development Council for preparation of a report on the development of Tuticorin hub port has submitted its final report during March, 2005 which is being followed up by Tuticorin Port Trust.